

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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USIA-15 NIC-01 EUR-25 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 020629Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1762

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 8732

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PEKING BOOSTS HONG KONG-MADE DOCUMENTARY

SUMMARY. A TOP LEVEL DECISION BASED ON PROPAGANDA VALUE
PROBABLY LIES BEHIND PEKING'S PROMOTION OF A HONG KONG-MADE
DOCUMENTARY FILM WHICH SHOWS CHINA IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT AND
ALSO FEATURES COMPATRIOTISM BETWEEN TAIWANESE AND MAINLANDERS.
END SUMMARY.

1. PEKING IS APPARENTLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A HONG KONG-MADE
DOCUMENTARY ON CHINA AND A SOURCE IN THE FILM INDUSTRY HERE
REPORTS HEARING THAT CHIANG CHING HAS PERSONALLY BOOSTED THE
FILM. THE FILM , "BRILLIANT SPECTACLE", WAS PRODUCED BY THE
GREAT WALL STUDIO HERE AS A DOCUMENTARY CENTERING ON THE TRI-
CONTINENTAL TABLE TENNIS MATCHES IN PEKING LAST YEAR. IT WAS
SCREENED HERE IN APRIL, AND IS NOW BEING RE-RUN AMID REPORTS
THAT THE PRC PURCHASED ONE THOUSAND COPIES AND SHOWD THE FILM
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TO WIDE POPULAR ACCALIM IN CHINA. THE FILM RANGES BEYOND THE

TABLE TENNIS MATCHES TO SHOW VARIOUS SCENES OF CHINA.

2. HONG KONG'S PRC OWNED PRESS IS ALSO TOUTING THE FILM AND THE AUGUST 1 U ISSUE OF TA KUNG PAO'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDITION SAYS THAT "THE REPEAT RUN OF THE FILM IS IN A WAY ALSO TO LAUNCH ITS WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION". TA KUNG PAO NOTES THAT "ONE OF THE MOST STIRRING MOMENTS" OF THE FILM SHOWS THE COMPATRIOTISM BETWEEN TAIWANESE AND MAINLANDERS. "PREMIER CHOU ADDS TO THE EMOTIONAL OUTFLOW WHEN HE EMBRACES THE LEADER OF THE TAIWAN GROUP".

3. LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY FIGURE KING HU CLAIMS TO HAVE HEARD THAT CHIANG CHING LIKES THE FILM VERY MUCH AND HAS CALLED IT ONE OF THE BEST SHE HAS EVER SEEN. WE HAVE A SIMILAR REPORT OF HER INTEREST IN THE FILM FROM A WASHINGTON TRAVELER WHO ATTRIBUTES HIS INFORMATION TO SOURCES IN PRCLO.

4. COMMENT. PROPAGANDA VALUE RATHER THAN ARTISTIC WORTH IS BEHIND THE DISCOVERY AND PROMOTION OF THIS FILM. IN THE WAKE OF THE ANTONIONI AFFAIR AND OTHER INSTANCES OF SENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN COMMENTARIES ON CHINA, PEKING'S DECISION TO ENDORSE AND TOUT THIS FILM HAD TO HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE TOP. FOR THE MOMENT, CONVENTIONAL WISDOM HERE VIEWS THE FILM AS AN ANTONIONI ANTIDOTE. IN POINTING TO THE FILM'S PORTRAYAL OF TAIWANESE -MAINLANDER RELATIONS
TA KUNG PAO MAY BE TIPPING AN IMPORTANT PROPAGANDA THEME BEHIND THE ATTENTION TO THE FILM. OTHER OBSERVATIONS ON TAIWAN AS A THEME IN PRC PROPAGANDA HERE FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
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